



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
September 17, 2019
Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7PM

Community House located at 192 South Third Street, Cochran, GA 31014

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans Mayor Pro Tem Thrower
Councilmembers: Carla D Coley, Andrew Lemmon, Jimmy Jones
Absent: Councilmember Anderson

Call to order by Mayor Billy Yeomans @ 7:00PM

The invocation was given by Mayor Yeomans followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Pro Tem Thrower.

Mayor Yeomans asked for a motion to adopt the September 17, 2019 Agenda.
Councilmember Jones made the motion to accept the September 17, 2019 Agenda with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 4-0.

Mayor Yeomans asked for any addition or corrections to the August 13, 2019 minutes. Mayor asked for a motion to accept the minutes from August 13, 2019. Councilmember Lemmon made the motion with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0.

Between Item #2 & Item #3, Mayor Yeomans read a letter from a citizen that wanted to recognize the Cochran Fire for a great job responding to a call at the Consignment Shop downtown.

- I. Call to Order by the Mayor**
- II. Invocation**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Attendance**
- V. Adopt Agenda**
- VI. Agenda Items**

ITEM# 1 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Recognize September 15-21 as Assisted Living Week in the City of Cochran – Proclamation from Mayor Billy Yeomans

ITEM #2 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Recognizing September 17, 2019 as National Recovery Month in the City of Cochran – Proclamation from Mayor Billy Yeomans. Mayor Yeomans read the proclamation for the National Recovery Month while the Promise of Hope Participants stood behind him. He gave the signed proclamation to the Promise of Hope and congratulated them on a job well done.

ITEM # 3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Introduction of Andy Lucas as the new President of the Cochran Bleckley Chamber of Commerce and IDA Director. Mayor Yeomans introduced the New Chamber of Commerce & IDA Director. Mr. Andy Lucas introduced him self and gave his background to the Council. Mayor Yeomans welcomed him to the City of Cochran Chamber of Commerce.

ITEM # 4 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing- abandonment of unnamed alley segment near the Masonic Lodge, followed by consideration of abandonment of unnamed alley segment.

Called to order at 7:15PM.

Mayor Yeomans called the meeting to order and gave the code

36-30-11 O.C.G. A. He stated the City was asked to close the alley segment near the Masonic Lodge. Gwendolyn Arnold spoke on behalf of Mrs. Rene Cannon. Mayor asked for any public comments either for or against the closing of the alley. No one spoke. Mayor Yeomans closed the public hearing @ 7:15PM. Mayor asked the Council for action. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to close the alley segment near the Masonic Lodge with Councilmember Coley seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0.

ITEM # 5 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing- consider an Ordinance to adopt a millage rate for the City of Cochran for 2019.

Mayor Yeomans called the public hearing to order @ 7:18PM.

Public hearings give any interested parties the opportunity to express their views or concerns in accordance with the code 48-5-32 O.C.G.A. The City of Cochran will set the Millage rate of 2019 at 11.267 mills. This is the 5th year this rate has been at 11.267 mills. If the Council votes to adopt the Millage rate it will be used to calculate the city tax bills. Mayor called for any public input at this time. No one spoke. Public Hearing closed at 7:20PM. Mayor called for a motion to accept the 2019 millage rate. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to pass the 2019 Millage rate at 11.267 with Councilman Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0.

ITEM # 6 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing- consider approval of amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to allow for a Conditional Use in an R-2 zoning district to allow for day care centers, followed by consideration of approving the amendment.

Mayor Called the Public Hearing to order @ 7:21PM. Public hearings give any interested parties the opportunity to express their views or concerns in accordance with O.C.G.A. The Conditional use amendment allows a property owner to retain their existing zoning designation while allowing for a conditional use. The amendment was advertised for a Public Hearing before the Zoning Committee and the Council in the August 27 edition in the Cochran Journal. This item will amend the Ordinance for conditional use. Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 7:24PM. Mayor asked the Council for an action. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to allow Conditional use in an R-2 Zoning District for Daycare centers. Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 4-0.

ITEM # 7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing – consider approval of a conditional use application from Vanessa Lawson to operate a day care facility at 199 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive

Mayor called the Public Hearing to order @ 7:25PM.

Public hearings give any interested parties the opportunity to express their views or concerns in accordance with O.C.G.A. This City of Cochran held this public hearing to consider approval for conditional use application for Vanessa Lawson to operate a day care facility at 199 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Zoning Committee recommended approval of Mrs. Lawson’s conditional use application. This application was advertised for a Public Hearing before the Zoning Committee and the Council in the August 27 edition of the Cochran Journal. The Zoning Committee, at their Tuesday, September 12 meeting, recommended approval of Mrs. Lawson’s conditional use application. Mayor called for any public comments. No one spoke.

Public Hearing closed @ 7:29PM

Mayor called for Council request.

Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the conditional use application from Vanessa Lawson to operate a day care facility at 199 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive with Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 4-0.

ITEM #8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing- for discussion of solar panel installations

Mayor called the Public Hearing to order at 7:33PM.

Public hearings give any interested parties the opportunity to express their views or concerns in accordance with O.C.G.A This City of Cochran is holding a Public Hearing on a proposal to possibly allow solar panel installation in the City of Cochran. No vote is necessary. The proposed location is in the C-2 zoning district to allow solar installations to be in C-2 district. Presently, C-2 commercial districts do not allow solar installation. This hearing is for public information only. Mayor called for Public comments. Gwendolyn Arnold expressed her concerns against the solar panel installation. James Collins also spoke against the solar panel installation.

Mayor closed Public Hearing at 7:40PM

ITEM # 9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider a recommendation from the City Zoning Committee to place a moratorium on permits for new building construction in the C-1 downtown business district. At the August 29 meeting, the Zoning committee made a recommendation to the City Council to place a moratorium on the issuance of building permits for news construction in the C-1 downtown commercial business district. This will not apply to rehabilitation of existing buildings or plumbing or electrical permits. Only new construction. Mayor asked for a motion to place a moratorium on permits for new building construction in the C-1 downtown business district. Gwendolyn Arnold expressed how unhappy she was about this moratorium. James Collins gave his input on the discussion. Mayor called for a motion. Councilmember Jones made a motion to place a moratorium on permits for construction on the C-1 district with Councilmember Lemmon seconding. Motion passed 3-1 (Yes- Coley, Jones, Lemmon) (No - Thrower)

ITEM # 10- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider accepting resignation of Council Member from District One Post Two. Mayor called for a motion to accept the resignation. Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to accept resignation with Councilmember Coley seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0

ITEM # 11- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving a sole source purchase of (1) new waste treatment filtration material for \$19,072 and (2) upgrade of the CPU PLC automations system for \$17,960 from Aqua Aerobics Systems, Inc. Richard Newbern gave the explanation of how Aqua- Aerobics constructed the waste treatment plant in 2001. They are the recommended sole source proprietor. This cost will be paid from SPLOST. The new CPU PLC will allow the plant to move in automated waste operation more quickly. Mayor asked for a motion to approve the sole source purchase for the waste treatment plant. Councilmember Coley made the motion to approve a sole source purchase of (1) new waste treatment filtration material for \$19,072 and (2) upgrade of the CPU PLC automations system for \$17,960 from Aqua Aerobics Systems, Inc. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0

ITEM # 12- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider awarding a road resurfacing/striping contract to Dykes Grassing from Cary, GA in the amount of \$167,000 to resurface 1.23 miles of City streets. City Manager gave an update on the road segments that need paving. He also explained this project will be financed with a \$86,222 state LMIG grant and balance will be paid from Road SPOLST. Willie Farrow, Public Works Director, gave more information on the alley ways and when the other segments would be resurfaced. Mayor asked for a motion. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to award a road resurfacing/striping contract to Dykes Grassing from Cary, GA in the amount of \$167,000 to resurface 1.23 miles of City streets. Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0

ITEM # 13- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving a contract for \$316,150 to L & L Construction from Dublin, GA to install water/sewer/drainage improvements in the Railroad Avenue CDBG target area. Mr. Newbern asked Skip Layton, City Engineer to address the Council on this project. He explained this is regarding the roadbed and road resurfacing. This is for the low- to moderate income residents, the project included funds to run water/sewer connections from the line tap to the residence. Mayor asked for motion. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to approving a contract for \$316,150 to L & L Construction from Dublin, GA to install water/sewer/drainage improvements in the Railroad Avenue CDBG target area with Councilmember Jones seconding. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0

ITEM # 14- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider awarding a contract to Unifirst Uniform Rental from Macon, GA in the amount of \$2,786 per year to supply and maintain uniforms to the personnel of the City Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Fire Chief Brock Wilcher explained to Council how the contract would be handled with the uniform rental company in Macon. Chief Wilcher researched the savings to contract this service out. He also sought out quotes from other uniforms services and Unifirst offers the most competitive price. Mayor asked for a motion. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Thrower seconded by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0

ITEM # 15- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider purchasing a four-door F-150 pickup truck for the Fire Lieutenant from Allen Vigil Ford in Morrow, GA. Total price is \$34,164.08 to be paid from the General Fund. Fire Chief Wilcher stated he would like to purchase off the state contract through the GMA lease purchase program as budgeted. This would be financed over a four-year period. Mayor asked for a motion to purchasing a four-door F-150 pickup truck for the Fire Lieutenant from Allen Vigil Ford in Morrow, GA. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Thrower with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0

ITEM # 16- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider authorizing the purchase of a Chevrolet Tahoe in the amount of \$32,588 from Hardy Chevrolet in Gainesville. City Manager stated this purchase will be for Police Captain and would be paid from SPLOST funds to replace a 2007 Tahoe he is currently driving which will be used as a trade in. Mayor asked for a motion. Motion was made to purchase a Chevrolet Tahoe in the amount of \$32,588 from Hardy Chevrolet in Gainesville for Police Captain by Mayor Pro Tem Thrower with Councilmember Lemmon seconding. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0

City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates:

- ❖ TSPOLST
- ❖ GICH retreat update in Douglasville GA
- ❖ DCA Conference
- ❖ Strategic Plan
- ❖ Zoning Committee

Council Discussion Items:

- Lemmon – Nothing
- Jones – Nothing
- Coley – Question about Temp Agency
- Thrower – Nothing

Announcement of Upcoming Meeting and Events

- ✓ **Work Session Prior to Council Meeting October 8, 2019 @ 5:30PM**
- ✓ **Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting – October 8, 2019 @ 7PM**

Public Comments

- Chara Nobles – Mrs. Nobles expressed her opinion on her new business that she is considering building.
- Edin Peacock – (244 Crest Drive) Spoke to the Council concerning an issue that is very important to him concerning deadly force to a citizen by law enforcement.
- Virgil Smith – (124 West Peacock St) Expressed his concerns on the ordinance about junk cars.
- Ethel King – (110 Palm St) Concerns about body cameras
- Stephanie Smith (110 Fairground Circle) Concerns regarding Police Officer actions
- Frankie Harris (120 Railroad Ave) Concerns regarding Police Officers actions
- Eve Wilson (174 Johnson St) Concerns with the Cochran Journal's paper dispenser

Mayor Yeomans addressed the Council: According to section 2.33 Powers and duties of the mayor. It reads: The Mayor shall (6) Not have the power of veto when a minimum four councilmember vote in a majority. Mayor Yeomans vetoed Item # 9. The veto can be overturned by a vote of four at the next scheduled meeting. Mayor will submit his reasons to the City Clerk within the next five days.

Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to go into executive session with Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0 @9:06PM

Went into Executive Session at 9:16PM

Came out of Executive Session at 9:27 PM (Motion made by Councilmember Lemmon 2nd by Councilmember Jones.

Went back into Regular Session at 9:27PM – Motion made by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Thrower. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0

Councilmember Jones made the motion to adjourn with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 4-0. Adjourned meeting @ 9:28 PM

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk